



July 24, 2008

The Honorable Fran Long
Montrose County Clerk & Recorder
P.O. Box 1289
Montrose, CO 81402

RE: Request for Removal from the Election Watch List

Dear Clerk Long:

I am in receipt of the letter from you and the Montrose Board of County Commissioners requesting removal of Montrose County from the Secretary of State's Election Watch List. In response to this request, my office conducted an onsite visit and requested submission of documentation demonstrating remediation of the previously identified deficiencies.

On March 12, 2007, you were notified of Montrose County's placement on the Election Watch List. The deficiencies described in the notification involved organizational problems, inadequate election judge training, problems with programming voting machines, and failure to comply with security requirements for voting equipment and election records, including failure to:

- Secure the room where the election records were stored;
- Seal the mobile ballot box cards;
- Create and use a number of chain of custody logs;
- Secure all voting equipment in a consistent manner with seals; and
- Conduct the required Logic and Accuracy Testing on the voting equipment prior to use on Election Day.

Department of State staff members visited your county in April 2007 and documented the progress made by you and your staff. Specifically, my office noted the increased security implemented through the use of security cameras, access logs, and seals on voting equipment. Election records and voting equipment had been neatly stored and labeled for easy reference. Additionally, the office space had been reorganized to better accommodate the staff and ensure security of equipment and documents.

During a follow-up visit in May 2008, Department of State staff took note of the further improvements to security the county had made as well as the increase in staff levels to better assist the voters of Montrose County. During this visit you provided documentation detailing the following:

- Training and cross training on the voter registration database, voting equipment, and general duties in the Election Office;
- Increase in staff at both the main Election Office and the remote office;
- A plan for ensuring acceptable wait times for voters to include redefined precinct boundaries, combined polling locations, and paper ballots at each polling location; and
- New communication procedures to ensure contact with county employees in the event of an emergency or technological issue.

Based upon the observations of Department of State staff as well as the documentation provided by Montrose County, I am pleased and impressed with the work of you and your staff. I find that all deficiencies have been remedied and hereby remove Montrose County from the Election Watch List.

The voters of your county should have the upmost respect for you and confidence in the elections held in your county.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Coffman", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mike Coffman
Secretary of State